

To the Hon^{ble}. the House of Commons now Assembled in the high Court of Parliament

The humble Petition of *John Lilburne*. Leif^t. Colonel.

In all humilitie

S Hewing, That your Petitioner having suffered abundance of inhumaine barbarous crueltie, by vertue of an illegall decree made against your Petitioner in the Starr-Chamber, 1627. (As by the copie of his Petition formerly presented to this Honourable House here unto annexed, and by your owne Votes made the 4. of May. 1641. upon the examination of that Petition) will appeare, which are as followeth, First, that the sentence of the Starr-Chamber given against him is illegall and against the Libertie of the Subject, and also bloody, wicked, cruell, barbarous and tyrannicall. Secondly, that reparations ought to be given to him, for his imprisonment, stripes, and losses sustained by that illegall sentence; and then also ordered that care should be taken to draw up his case and transmit it to the Lords. But by reason of multitude of businesse in this Honourable House there hath been no further proceeding in it since, and these distractions coming on; your Petitioner tooke Command under the Right Honourable *Robert Lord Brooke*, with whose Regiment he advanced his life freely, and resolutely both at *Kenton field* and *Brainford*, where he was taken Prisoner and carried away to *Oxford*; where within a short time after his coming, the King sent to the Castle to your Petitioner, the now Duke of *Anglon*, the Lord *Dunsmore*, the Lord *Maitrevers*, and the Lord *Andover* to wooe your Petitioner with the large proffers of the Honour and glorie of Court preferment; so for sake the Parliaments partie; and to ingage on his partie upon the fighting and contemning of which your Petitioner was within few days after laid in Irons & kept an exceeding close Prisoner, & forced severall times to march into *Oxford* in Irons to Judge *Heath*, before whom he was arraigned for high Treason, for drawing his sword in the cause of the Common-wealth, & suffered multitudes of other miseries in his almost twelve months cruell Captivite there. In which time he lost above 600. l. in his estate that he left behind him at *London* (as he is clearly able to make appeare) and immediately after his coming from thence he tooke Command in the Earle of *Manchesters* Army, his Commission as Major of Foot, bearing date the 7. of October 1643, which lasted till the 16. of May, 1644. At which time he was authorized by Commission as Lieutenant Colonel to command a Regiment of *Diagoners*. In which service having bene in many engagements, he hopes it will easily appeare that he hath not only behaved himselfe honestly and faithfully, but also valiently and bravely in the most or many discouragements, God crowning some of his endavours with successe, especially at the taking in *Sir Francis Wortles Garrison* and *Tukel Castle*.

The premises considered,

He humbly beseecheth this Honourable Assemblie to perfect that justice which you happily began for your Petitioner, and to give him Reparation for his long and tedious Imprisonment and heave sufferings by the Starr-Chamber decree (having waited 4. yeares with patience for that end) though he lost by his imprisonment all that he had, and was deprived of a profitable calling being then in the way of a Factor in the low Countries) and also to take of the King's fine. And to consider his service with the Earle of *Manchesters*, his pay amounting to about 800. l. of which he hath not received, 200. l. though he hath faithfully adventured his life, and spent a great deale of his own money, and lost at *Newark* when *Prince Rupert* raised the siege almost a 100. l. being strip from the Crowne of the Head to the Sole of the Foot, besides his former losses at *Kenton battell* and *Brainford*. Wherefore he humbly prayeth that his accompts may be audited and his arrears (according to the Tenor of your owne Ordinance) paid unto him.

And he shall ever pray, &c. *John Lilburne*.

To the Honorable House of Commons, now Assembled in the high Court of Parliament.

The humble Petition of *John Lilburne*, Prisoner in the Fleet:

In all humilitie sheweth,

That in December next will be three yeares, your Petitioner upon supposal of sending over certaine Bookes of *Doct. Bishoppes* from *Holland* into *England*, was by *Doct. Lambes* warrant without any examination at all sent to the Gate house Prison, and from thence within three dayes removed to the Fleet where he abiding Prisoner, in *Candlemas* Teame following was proceeded against in the honourable Court of Starr-chamber, where your Petitioner appearing and entreing of his name, for want of money his name was struck out againe, and he refusing to take an Oath, to answer to all things that should be demanded of him, for that your Petitioner conceived the said Oath to be dangerous and illegall, without any Interrogatories tendered him, for his refusing the said Oath, he was prosecuted and censured in the said Court most heavily, being fined 500. l. to the King, and sent prisoner to the Fleet. And in *Easter* Teame following was whipped from the Fleet to *Westminster*, with a 3. fold knotted Cord receiving at least 300 stripes, and then at *Westminster* he was set on the Pillary the space of 2. houres (and over and above the censure of the Court at the Warden of the Fleets command) was gagged about an houre and halfe) after which most cruell sufferings was againe returned into the Fleet close Prisoner, when through his said sufferings the next morning he being sicke of an extreme Feaver could not have admittance for his Chirurgion to let him blood, or crease his forces till the afternoon of the said day though the Chirurgion himselfe in pittie to the Prisoner went to *Westminster* to the Warden himselfe, and your Petitioner hath been a close Prisoner in the Fleet ever since, where in a most cruell manner he hath been put into Iron Fetters both hands and legges, which caused a most dangerous sicknesse that continued 6. moneths, and after some small recoverie was againe laid in Irons; which caused at least 5. moneths sicknesse more dangerous then the former. During which time of sicknesse, they have most unhumanely denied his friends to come to see him, nor will they would give them money for admittance; and they have denied many to come at all, and have beaten, and kicked, and otherwise most shamefully abused such his friends as came to see him in his great distresse, and to bring him food and necessities to sustaine his life, and also have kept his servant from him, and his food: so that if he had not been relieved by death of his fellow Prisoners he had been kept from any food at all for above the space of 10. dayes together, and the Prisoners that out of pittie have relieved him, have been most cruelly punished, and the Keepers have not forborne to confesse themselves that they had starved him long agoe, had not the Prisoners relieved him: and besides all this they have most cruelly beaten and wounded him, to the hazard of his limbs, and danger of his life, had he not been rescued and saved from them by the Prisoners of the same house, in which most miserable condition your poore Petitioner hath continued a Prisoner for the space of above 2. yeares and a halfe, and is like still to continue in the same under the merciles hands of the Warden of the Fleet, who hath denied lawfull libertie to his Prisoners: For that he hath said, he must observe the Man that hath so great a sway in the Kingdome, intimating the Arch Bishop.

All which his deplored condition and lamentable miseries he most humbly presenteth to this honourable Assembly beseeching them to be pleased to cast an eye of compassion towards him, and to afford him such reliefe from his censure and hard imprisonment as may seem good to your wisdomes, who otherwise is like to persunder the hands of merciles men.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray as in duty he is bound to the Lord to blesse and prosper this honourable Assembly. *John Lilburne*.

May it please this Honorable House to take Notice, that I have indeavored by all the wayes and means I possible could, for these divers weekes together, to get my Petition presented and read in this honorable Assembly but by reason of multitudes of Publique businesse, I have not been able to get my desire effected: Therefore in regard of my necessities arising from my often suffering shipwracke in my estate, in reference to my eyeing the Welfare of the Publique, and having spent above threescor pounds since I began to waite upon this house to get this Petition read, and having a wife and familie to maintaine, meerly out of my owne indulerie which is likely to suffer very much by my continued attendance here, I am therefore necessitated to assume the boldnesse to present my Petition in print to the honourable Members of this house, hoping I shall not therefore be esteemed a transgressor especially when it is seriously considered that for above 7. yeares together, I have suffered all kind of miseries, kazards and dangers, and laboured studiously and cordially to preserve and defend my birthright and priviledges, which is the inheritance of all the Freeborne people of *England*, amongst which I humbly conceive the libertie of making knowne my grievances to this high and honourable Court (the trustees of the whole Common welth of *England*) is not the least: for whose just authority I have so often in the feild vented my life.

And whereas in the conclusion of my Petition, I pray that my accompts may be audited, I humbly crave leave to declare unto you one reason for that, which is this. I was Major to *Colonell King* for divers moneths, with whom I served in *Lincolnshire* faithfully, my pay amounting to betwixt 1. & 200. l. of which he paid me about one fourth, & detaines the rest in his owne hands, (which I am confidently perswaded he received punctually) of the Countrey, with other large sumes of other Officers which likewise he unjustly detaines as particularly 292. l. 6. s. of my eldest brothers, who never had a weekes pay from him. And likewise 316. l. 12. s. 6. d. of my youngest brother, with other great sumes and though we had the Earle of *Manchesters* warrant to him and the Auditer General of the Army to audit our accompts, yet he contemnd them both, and would not give us a Debenier for our money though we honestly paid our quarters both for Horse and Man and though he received about Twenty thousand pounds of the Countrey to pay his Officers and Souldiers as divers of the Committee of *Lincolne* doe affirme in their printed Articles which were exhibited to this honorable House in *August* last, and if they had said 30000. l. I believe it might easily be proved true, if you would command him, to give up his accompts and authorize men of integrity and fidelitie in the Countrey to inquire after his receipts, the which if you please to doe I doe humbly conceive you will get some thousands of pounds by it, which he unjustly detaines in his hands from you and those that have done you faithfull service,

FINIS.